

# Commander's Call Topics



Dec. 18, 2009

## CCT Holiday Schedule:

No CCT will be published Dec. 25, 2009, and Jan. 1, 2010. The CCT will resume Jan. 8, 2010.

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

### Leaders send holiday greetings

Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy send the Air Force family holiday greetings and remind all to remember those who are apart from family and friends.

*"During this holiday season, please take the opportunity to reflect on our blessings as Americans, and to remember the many people who enrich our lives. As we celebrate these holidays with more than 36,000 Airmen-as well as our joint partners-engaged in combat operations across the globe, we are thankful for the men and women who have answered our nation's call in a time of war, and who selflessly serve to ensure our freedom."*

Click [here](#) for the complete text.

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### President promises conditions-based Afghanistan transition

Any changes in U.S. troop strength in Afghanistan when security responsibility starts to transfer to the Afghans in July 2011 will be considered in light of the situation on the ground at that time, President Barack Obama said.

President Obama has directed the deployment of 30,000 extra U.S. troops to Afghanistan over the next several months to combat and neutralize Taliban insurgents who threaten to destabilize the Afghan government. Some of those troops will be employed in training additional Afghan soldiers and police. Deployments will flow into the summer and will boost the total U.S. military strength in Afghanistan to about 100,000 troops.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### Air Force officials to begin involuntary phase of retraining for NCOs

More than 300 additional Airmen are needed to retrain to ensure all Air Force career fields are equally manned. Phase II, which identifies non-volunteers for retraining, began Dec. 14. Airmen have until Jan. 22, 2010, to submit a completed retraining package for the Air Force specialty code for which they are selected.

### Promotion to E-8 to require resident Senior NCO Academy

Completion of the resident Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy or a sister service equivalent becomes a requirement for promotion to senior master sergeant effective Jan. 1.

### Opportunities available in financial management

Air Force line officers interested in applying for the Financial Management Leadership Program must submit their nominations to the Air Force Personnel Center by Jan. 5. The four-year program specializes in Air Force leadership development by providing an opportunity for line officers outside the 65F financial management career specialty a chance to gain experience as comptroller squadron commanders.

## FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Officials seek feedback on family programs

The anonymous, online survey solicits feedback from servicemembers and their families on the military's educational programs, support networks and other services. To participate, go to <https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1253631402808>.

### **Law allows spouses to keep residency while under orders**

President Barack Obama recently signed a bill, known as the 'Military Spouses Residency Relief Act,' that allows military spouses to claim residency in the same state as their sponsor and retain that residency as long as the servicemember is in the military. This new law protects military spouses from being taxed for work performed in states where they're living outside their home states as a result of military orders. For assistance with the MSRRA, contact your local legal office to setup a legal assistance appointment.

### **Year of the Air Force Family short story competition coming soon**

Air Force Services Agency officials are accepting short story competition entries Dec. 20 through Feb. 14 as part of the Year of the Air Force Family. This is an opportunity for Airmen to express what living the Air Force life means to them, their family and their friends. Entries must be 300 words or less in Microsoft Word and uploaded to <http://www.myairforcelife.com>. The subject of the short story is "The Air Force is a great place to live, work and play." Once uploaded, visitors to the site can vote for their favorite stories. Entries with the highest number of votes will become finalists.

## **FINANCES AND EDUCATION**

### **Military housing allowance rates set for 2010**

Military members will see an average raise of 2.5 percent in housing allowance rates in 2010. The increase comes to average of around \$37 per month for the more than 900,000 servicemembers expected to draw the basic allowance for housing in 2010. Some areas will see a higher increase, while others will see less.

### **2010 Thrift Savings Plan contributions remain at 2009 limits**

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board announced the 2010 elective deferral limit for regular Thrift Savings Plan contributions will remain at \$16,500, unchanged from 2009. Contributions for the TSP catch-up plan also remains at the \$5,500 limit set in 2009. Additional information is available on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

## **RESOURCES**

### ***AF.mil***

<http://www.af.mil>

### ***Air Force Community***

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

### ***Air Force Highlights***

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/usafhighlights/index.asp>

### ***Military OneSource***

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

### ***Military HOMEFRONT***

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

### ***Year of the Air Force Family***

<http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp>  
[www.MyAirForceLife.com](http://www.MyAirForceLife.com)

### ***Air Force Personnel Center***

<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>  
<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

### ***Air Reserve Personnel Center***

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

**Department of Defense**

<http://www.defense.gov>

**Department of Defense News**

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

**TRICARE**

<http://www.tricare.mil>

**U.S. Government Web site**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

## **AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS**

### **This Week in Air Force History**

**Dec. 18, 1972** – President Nixon directed the resumption of full-scale bombing and mining in North Vietnam, in an operation known as Linebacker II.

**Dec. 18, 1972** – Staff Sgt. Samuel Turner scores the first of only two aerial kills ever from a B-52 during Operation Linebacker II in Vietnam, and he becomes first enlisted MiG killer in Southeast Asia.

**Dec. 20, 1943** – Tech. Sgt. Forrest Vosler suffering from numerous wounds defends his B-17 from Nazi fighters and assists wounded crew members after ditching. Sergeant Vosler was presented the Medal of Honor on Aug. 30, 1944, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**Dec. 20, 1989** – As a result of increasing hostile actions directed at American civilians and military personnel, President George H. W. Bush ordered the beginning of Operation Just Cause. Two F-117 Stealth fighters released 2,000-pound laser-guided bombs in the aircraft's first combat missions. An AC-130H aircrew accurately attacked the Panamanian Defense Forces headquarters compound, the most heavily defended target of operation. Military Airlift Command units transported 9,500 airborne troops from Pope AFB, N.C., to Panama in less than 36 hours, making it the largest night-combat airdrop since the Normandy invasion of 1944.

**Dec. 22, 1964** – The SR-71 long-range, reconnaissance aircraft made its first flight.

**Dec. 24, 1972** – Airman 1st Class Albert Moore scores the second and last confirmed kill by a B-52 tail gunner during Operation Linebacker II in Vietnam.

**Dec. 30, 1972** – President Nixon ordered a halt to the bombing of North Vietnam north of the 20th parallel and announces that peace talks will resume in Paris on Jan. 8, 1973.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit the Air Force Link heritage section at

<http://www.af.mil/information/heritage>.

*The Defense Media Activity-San Antonio produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this or any other DMA-SA product, send e-mail to [afproducts@dma.mil](mailto:afproducts@dma.mil). To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to [www.af.mil/information/subscribe](http://www.af.mil/information/subscribe). For the CCT archive, visit <http://www.af.mil/information/cct/>.*